

Getting inside the RS-1 shell

You will need a precision set of Phillips screwdrivers, especially one with a long and very thin shaft. The shaft needs to fit between the drive wheel and the sideframe of the trucks. If you don't have a screwdriver this skinny, don't even try to remove the shell! It is also very helpful if your screwdriver is magnetized so you can lift out the screws. This is more important when re-installing the shell, since there is very little room to work when trying to put the screws back in!

The Atlas instructions show the "general" location of the screws that hold the shell on. There are 6 of them: 2 at each end of the hood, and 2 where the long hood meets the cab. These last 2 are easy to get out. The ones at the other end of the long hood are not too bad, they are a little hidden under the truck but the truck can be swiveled enough to get a small Phillips screwdriver on them. The ones at the end of the short hood are the biggest problem. They are way under the truck and you have to use the thin screwdriver inserted between the truck sideframe and the wheel (with the truck properly rotated) in order to remove the screws.

Once all 6 screws are out, you can remove the shell. There are actually two shells: the short hood and cab are one assembly and the long hood is a separate piece. Remove the short hood/cab first. The cab has 2 plastic tabs that fit into slots in the walkway at the long hood end. There are no locking tabs, but be aware of these tabs, especially when re-assembling. The handrails fit into small holes in the cab, and the low handrails will keep the cab from coming off. Grab the handrail wire near the steps on the pilot and you can slide the rail out of the hole in the cab (it will slide through all of the stanchions). You'll need to release the rail on both the short and long hood. The high handrails can be flexed easily out of the holes near the cab roof.

With the handrails released, the cab should start to lift. I used a small flat-blade screwdriver to help get it started. The cab will lift off, but the wires to the headlight LED are just barely long enough, so the cab/short hood piece cannot really be set aside.

To remove the long hood, the plastic bosses that house the screw holes must be flexed apart so they can slip past the smoke unit. These bosses are at the cab end and you can lift the hood enough to get your fingers in there to gently spread them apart.

There! The cab is off.

To re-install the shells, start with the long hood. Put it in place and check to see that no wires are pinched under the mounting bosses. I

installed the screws into these bosses so no wires could migrate under them. I then replaced the mounting screws at the other end of the long hood.

The short hood now slips on. Be careful with the handrails so as not to scratch the cab as it is slipped on and make sure the tabs fit into the slots in the walkway. Finally, re-install the screws that hold the short hood.

Re-installing the screws was pretty easy with the magnetized thin screwdriver, but I don't know how you could do it without such a tool.